

SWINDERMAN-STEELE HOUSE

58 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

Number 58 Pennsylvania Avenue, one of the smaller houses on that Avenue, fronts it on the northeast side halfway between Union Street and "The Forks" in Westminster. The original house, one of the oldest in this part of town, was probably a modest squat two-story two-sectioned building typical of the area; it almost certainly dates before 1840. Then, two generations later, the house experienced severe alterations at least on the principal facade, as did its neighbor. The similarity of the two houses alterations, as well as their similarity of ownership, makes one believe that it was the Steele family who did both. Besides working together chronologically, the two additions work together architecturally as well: a full tower rising at its rounded splendor is interesting contrast to the rather squatty angular two story bay here which almost resembles an aborted tower. Also of interest in the house is the side gallery, and it is interesting that the Steele family did not change this feature of the house.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CARR 499
MCI #070445404

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Swinderman-Steele House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

58 Pennsylvania Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

7

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

☒BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

☒PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

☒PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Lawrence E. Zepp

Telephone #: 848-4994

STREET & NUMBER

115 N. Cranberry Road

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21157

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Carroll County Office Building

Liber #: 179

Folio #: 250

STREET & NUMBER

Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

(From last alteration)

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Number 58 Pennsylvania Avenue, one of the smaller houses on that Avenue, fronts it on the northeast side halfway between Union Street and "The Forks" in Westminster. Although the house is small, it works surprisingly well with its larger neighbor to the north, no. 60 Pennsylvania Avenue, and the two result in one of the finest duos in the City.

The original house, one of the oldest in this part of town, was probably a modest squat two-story two-sectioned building typical of the area; it almost certainly dates before 1840. Then, two generations later, the house experienced severe alterations at least on the principal facade, as did its neighbor. The similarity of the two houses alterations, as well as their similarity of ownership, makes one believe that it was the Steele family who did both. The alteration here fills half of the principal facade and consists of a hexagonal two story bay window topped by a broad attic pediment. The bay window section has one double-hung sash 1/1 window on each of the three exposed sides and the pediment has a small round window smack in its center. The whole is covered in this similar cusped shingle style and as the tower and gable in number 60 (q.v.). The older half of this principal facade now sheathed in grey aluminum siding, and consists of one 2/2 window on the second floor to the south, a facade which is also pierced by a ground story 2/2 window. The building's L is important in the City because it still has the original side two story porch (most buildings have since enclosed their porches). Beyond the porch one glass and aluminum storm window per floor provides light. The rear of the L has had a recent extension: a single story nearly flat roofed extension pierced by glass and aluminum storm windows.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1830; c. 1900 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As already discussed, number 58 Pennsylvania Avenue is important for at least two reasons, viz., the way the building was altered, and the way it was not. The alterations on the principal facade are of prime interest both for their own sake, and for their relationship to work with their neighbor number 60 Pennsylvania Avenue. It is not uncommon in Westminster to find different branches of the same family living next door or across the street from each other (as only one example: the Rinehart-Wantz family on West Main Street), and such occurrences, when families are in a building mood, often result in structures of interest. This is the case here when the Steele family apparently acquired neighboring properties in the late 19th century, properties which are built a half century or so earlier, and made alterations on them to bring them up-to-date. Number 60, the larger house, received grander alterations in the form of a three story tower and gable but number 58 was not overlooked. Here it had a two story bay which is heavily topped by a large attic pediment.

Besides working together chronologically, the two additions work together architecturally as well: a full tower rising at its rounded splendor is interesting contrast to the rather squatty angular two story bay here which almost resembles an aborted tower. Also of interest in the house is the side gallery, and it is interesting that the Steele family did not change this feature of the house.

The lot first appears in the Land Records on March 8, 1841 when one of the executors of Peter Shoemaker sold this lot ("together with the house thereon erected") to John Miller for \$920.62, as exposed to the lower contemporaneous price of the neighboring, unimproved lot of 60 Pennsylvania Avenue (Carroll County Deed Book WW5, Page 286). On the same page and on the same day Miller sold the lot to Flin Gardner who sold to Joseph Swinderman on February 28, 1855 for \$800 (19/370). The house changed hands several times until the Steele family took title, in the person of Anne E. Steele on December 29, 1888; Ms. Steele paid \$1800 for the house (68/486). However, it seems that the Steele family had been living there before actually buying it, as

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Being all of lot number 4 of B. S. Pigman's Addition
to Westminster.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Christopher Weeks, Consultant

August, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Westminster Historical Sites Survey

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

c/o City Hall - Public Works Department

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created
by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the
Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA,
1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information
and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringe-
ment of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

the 1881 City Directory lists William Steele as living at 58 Pennsylvania Avenue. The house stayed in that family until an equity case resulted in its sale to Delmarten M. Dibble for \$3525 on June 24, 1922 (140/363). Dibble sold the house 3 years later to William H. Hutting (143/223), who sold to Carroll J. Myers on May 10, 1938 (168/306). Myers sold to the present owner on July 31, 1942.

68 2/3



CARR-494
Swinderman - Steele House
58 Pennsylvania Ave.

E-24



CARR-494